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***Inocellia indica* sp. nov. (Raphidioptera: Inocelliidae): a new snakefly species from northeastern India**

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Abstract

A new species of the snakefly genus *Inocellia* Schneider, 1843 from northeastern India is described: *Inocellia indica* sp. nov. The new taxon represents the second species of Raphidioptera from the northeastern part of the Indian Subcontinent and appears to be closely related to *I. bhutana* Aspöck, Aspöck & Rausch, 1991 from neighboring Bhutan.

Key words: Neuropterida, taxonomy, new species, South Asia

Introduction

The snakefly family Inocelliidae comprise 40 valid extant species (H. Aspöck *et al.* 2012; Liu *et al.* 2012a, 2012b, 2013, 2014; H. Aspöck & U. Aspöck 2013), and most of these are rarely collected in the wild. Remarkably, Inocelliidae are particularly diverse in the east of Asia, currently with four genera and 18 species, representing nearly a half of the world's fauna. However, inocelliids in South Asia are scarce. There has been only one described species, namely *Inocellia fulvostigmata* U. Aspöck & H. Aspöck, 1968, which includes two subspecies (*I. fulvostigmata fulvostigmata* U. Aspöck & H. Aspöck, 1968 and *I. fulvostigmata nigrostigmata* H. Aspöck, U. Aspöck & Rausch, 1982), documented from India. This species occurs in northwestern India and it is also distributed in Afghanistan and Pakistan (H. Aspöck *et al.* 1991). In the northeastern part of South Asia and where a subtropical biota is present, only one species, i.e., *I. bhutana* Aspöck, Aspöck & Rausch, 1991 is recorded, from Bhutan. Ghosh (2000) recorded Inocelliidae from Shillong, Meghalaya, northeastern India, but identified them as *I. crassicornis* (Schummel, 1832), which is apparently a misidentification due to the elongate male gonocoxite of the male that was illustrated. Recently, a northeastern Indian species of *Inocellia* was reported based on a single female collected also from Shillong (Hajong 2013), and it is probably conspecific with that misidentified male in Ghosh (2000). However, there was no male available for further identification at that time. After the report of Hajong (2013), several inocelliid specimens, including males and females, were successfully collected from Shillong in the early summer of 2015. After careful examination, these specimens are now understood to belong to an undescribed species. We herein describe the species as *Inocellia indica* sp. nov. The present finding provides new information toward improving our knowledge of the fauna of Raphidioptera from South Asia.

Material and methods

The type specimens of the presently described species are deposited in the Museum of National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bangalore, India; the Natural History Museum (NHM), London, U.K.; the National Forest Insect Collection (NFIC), FRI Dehradun, India; and the personal collection of S.R. Hajong. Genitalic preparations were made by clearing the apex of the abdomen in a cold saturated KOH solution for 6–8 h. After rinsing the KOH with acetic acid and water, the apex of the abdomen was transferred to glycerin for further